



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

## What is the SBA Mentor-Protégé Program?

The 8(a) and All Small Mentor-Protégé programs officially merged into the new SBA Mentor-Protégé Program (SBA MPP) on November 16, 2020. The ruling can be found in the [Federal Register](#).

The SBA MPP helps eligible small businesses (protégés) gain capacity and win government contracts through partnerships with more experienced companies that are willing to fill the mentor role.

### SBA MPP Qualifications

#### As a protégé, you must:

- Be a [small business](#) with industry experience. You can find out if your business qualifies as small by using the [Size Standards Tool](#), or by referencing the SBA's [table of small business size standards](#). Both the tool and the table help you find the small business classification requirements according to [individual NAICS codes](#).
- Be organized for profit or as an agricultural cooperative.
- Have a proposed mentor prior to applying for the program.

#### As a mentor, you must:

- Be organized for profit or as an agricultural cooperative.
- Be able to carry out its responsibilities to assist the protégé firm under the proposed mentor-protégé agreement.
- Not appear on the federal list of debarred or suspended contractors.
- Impart value to a protégé firm due to lessons learned and practical experience gained through its knowledge of general business operations and government contracting.



## Program Benefits for Protégés and Mentors

A protégé can get valuable assistance from a mentor in several areas, including:

- Technical and/or management assistance
- Financing in the form of equity investments and/or loans
- International trade
- Government contracting
- General and Administrative (G&A)
- Business development

A mentor benefits in several ways, including:

- Shared cost
- Shared resources
- Collective representation of past performance
- Leveraging the other business's experience and the small business's certification
- Forming a joint venture, which allows both firms to compete for contracts that neither can perform on their own

1. The mentor and protégé should already have found each other before applying.
2. You must be approved by the SBA to participate in its MPP. You're required to use the [certify.SBA.gov](https://certify.sba.gov) website to apply. You'll need to have a profile at [SAM.gov](https://SAM.gov) before you can use the certification website.
3. Before you apply:
  - Make sure both businesses are registered at [SAM.gov](https://SAM.gov)
  - Decide if you're applying for an MPA using the protégé's primary or secondary NAICS code (if using a secondary NAICS code, examples of proof of experience include invoice and prime/sub-contracts).
  - Both businesses must complete the [SBA's online tutorial](#) (save your completion certificates)
  - Create and agree to a [Mentor-Protégé Agreement](#)
4. When you're ready to apply, go to [certify.SBA.gov](https://certify.sba.gov) and apply to join the MPP using the protégé's DUNS number.
5. Read the instructions at [certify.SBA.gov](https://certify.sba.gov) carefully to make sure you provide all the necessary information.

## LEARN MORE

Visit our website:

[www.sba.gov/mpp](https://www.sba.gov/mpp)

Email for general questions:

[sbampp@sba.gov](mailto:sbampp@sba.gov)

**Read more about the new SBA MPP and related rule changes in the FAQs.**

Please plan ahead to make sure all necessary items are prepared before applying. Review the SBA MPP Tip Sheet to ensure your application submission is successful.



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